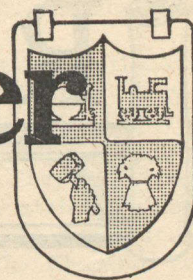


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Canada in 1907

TO forecast what will happen in Canada in 1907 with any degree of exactness in detail is out of the question. He would be a foolish man who would attempt it. Yet one may estimate certain movements, where fore-knowledge and reason combine to afford the opportunity.

In 1907, there will be a large influx of new settlers and Canada's population will be increased to a greater extent than in any other twelve months. The year 1906 holds the record. Before that the year 1905 held it. With this in our mind, why should we not expect an increase next year? All the arguments of the past still hold: the agencies at work are more numerous.

In 1907, the trade of Canada will be larger than it ever has been before. The period of rapid expansion is not yet over. The filling up of "The Last and Best West" means increased trade; the rapid building of railways, the growth of new settlements and new towns spells more buying and selling. The year 1906 was a year of investigations and strikes; 1907 should be more stable and more favourable to trade expansion. The settlement of the tariff is another beneficial factor.

In 1907 there will be an Imperial conference which will mark a new era in the history of the Empire. There have been colonial conferences, but at these the British Government has been represented only incidentally. On this occasion it will be represented officially. The questions to be discussed will be imperial rather than colonial; the decisions will be imperial and as binding on the London authorities as on those at Ottawa, Melbourne and Wellington.

The development of our educational systems will show progress in 1907. The opening of the St. Anne's Agricultural College and St. Anne's Normal School, near Montreal, will mark a new epoch in Quebec. Higher salaried teachers, new normal schools, a new Educational Council and a new

text-book system will affect Ontario. Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia are laying plans for higher university teaching.

The literature read by the people will be more British and less foreign in 1907 than in any previous year. In May, the one-sided Postal Convention between Canada and the United States will be replaced by a new arrangement which will give British and Canadian periodicals an equal chance. With the proposed reduction in British postage on periodicals mailed to Canada, the new position will be accentuated.

Civil Service Reform will be a leading topic in 1907. The present methods are discredited. The recent reforms in Australia and in the United States have brought the services in those countries more nearly to the British model. Canada cannot afford to neglect a situation so full of dan-

ger to good government and efficient administration. The patronage committee must be eliminated. Appointments to and promotions in the various Civil Services must be competitive. The scholar, the well-informed specialist should get the positions now given to ward heelers or party hacks.

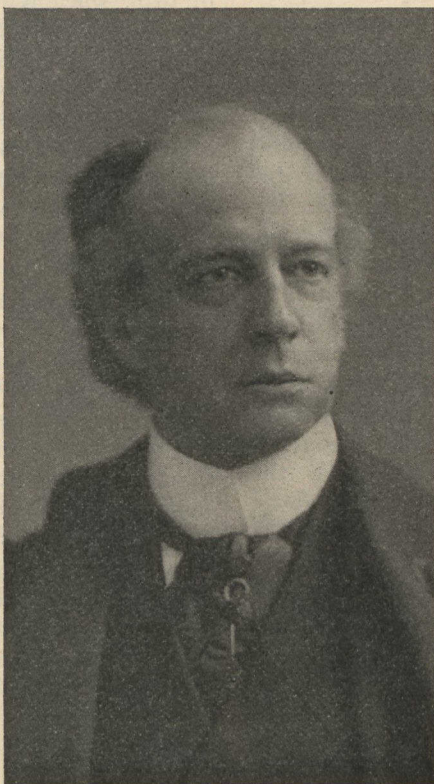
The national pride will exhibit itself in several directions. The taking over the dockyard at Halifax on January first will practically complete Canadian control of all fortresses and naval stations. There will be increased interest in the militia. There will be increased force in the movement looking to the establishment of a naval militia and a government-controlled shipyard for the building of naval vessels. In the day of her prosperity, Canada is thinking more seriously of the problems of coast defence and of the necessity for assisting in the policing of international waters.

With all this native growth, there will be an increased interest in trade relations with other countries and continents. Australia and New Zealand are anxious for a closer commercial intercourse and the new movement in Japan tends to open Oriental markets to Canadian goods.

The growth of Canadian clubs and of interest in native literature and native art may be classed with the growth of national pride and confidence. The two movements are complementary and contemporaneous. They have back of them the same causes and influences.

There may be, there probably will be, some disturbing influences. Aside from some great national disaster which is a possibility in every country, there is scarcely a cloud on the horizon as the New Year dawns. Let us, therefore, in the words of a native poet, sing:

O glad New Year! we hail thee too;
Thou bring'st us joy or sorrow;
We hope for joy; yet know that pain
Is sent us, higher heights to gain;
Then dread we not the morrow.



SIR WILFRID LAURIER

Who has entered on his eleventh year as Premier of the Dominion of Canada.